


Views of Parents of Novice Teenage Drivers: Age of Licensure, Monitoring Driving, and Vehicle Choice

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**INSURANCE INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY**

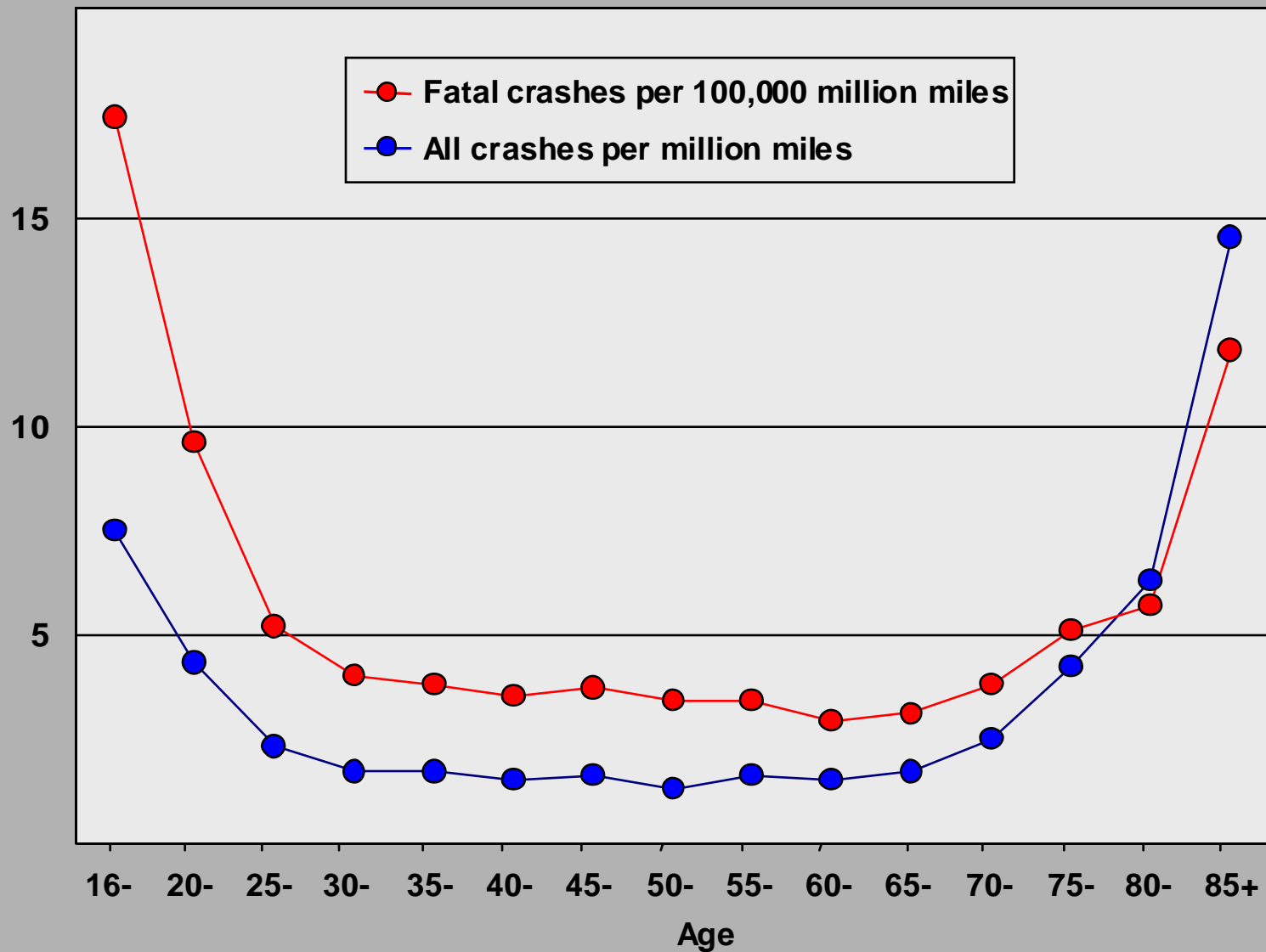


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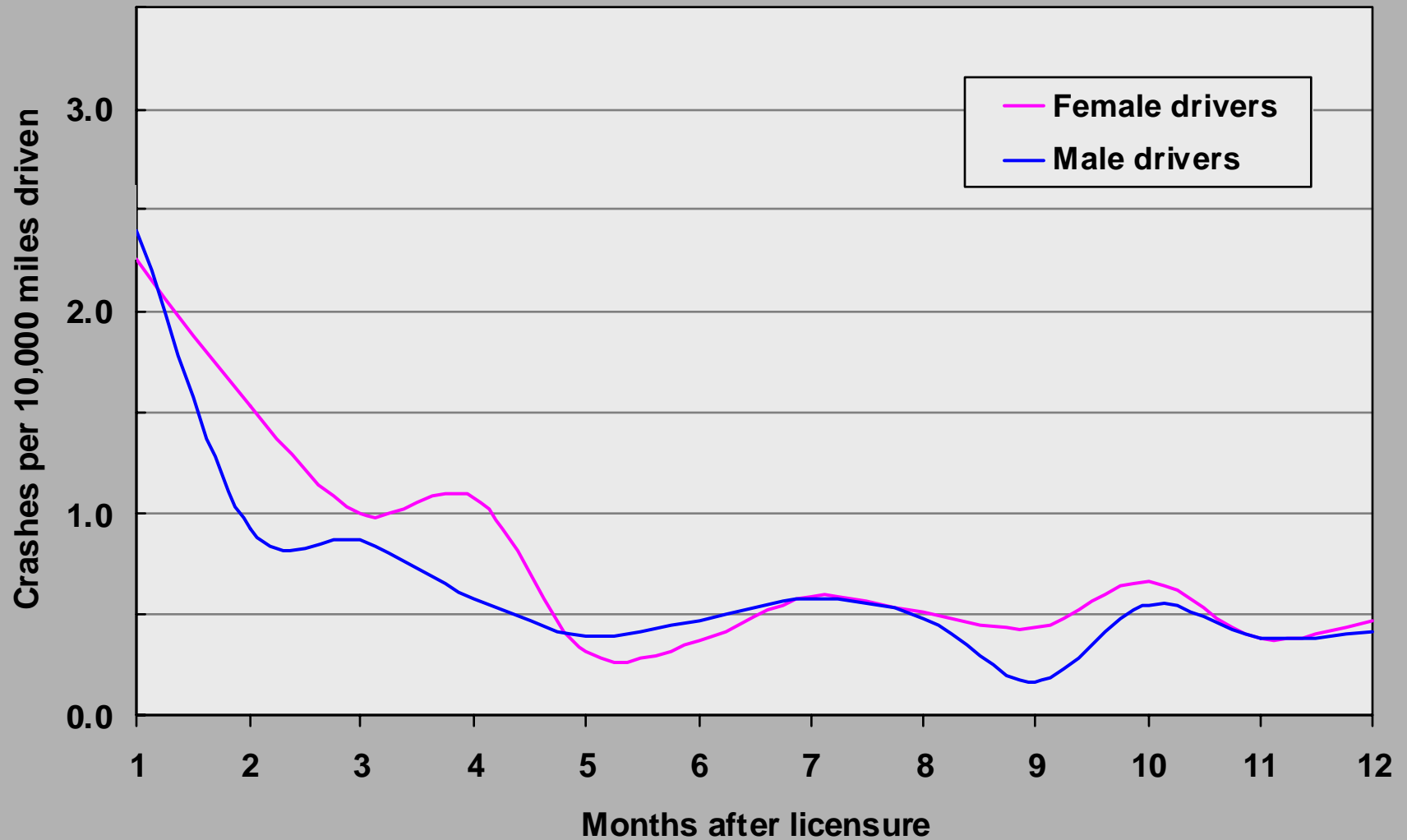
Crashes per mile traveled

By driver age, 2001-02



Crash rate by month of licensure

Per 10,000 miles driven



Survey of parents of newly licensed teenagers

- ◆ Face-to-face interviews of parents of 16-17 year-olds at driver licensing offices in Minnesota, North Carolina, and Rhode Island
- ◆ Interviews conducted while teenagers took first on-road driving test
- ◆ About 300 parents interviewed in each state during February-May 2006; 93-96 percent participation rate
- ◆ Significant socio-economic differences among state samples
- ◆ Topics included age of licensure, monitoring teen driving, and vehicle choice

Licensing laws during study period

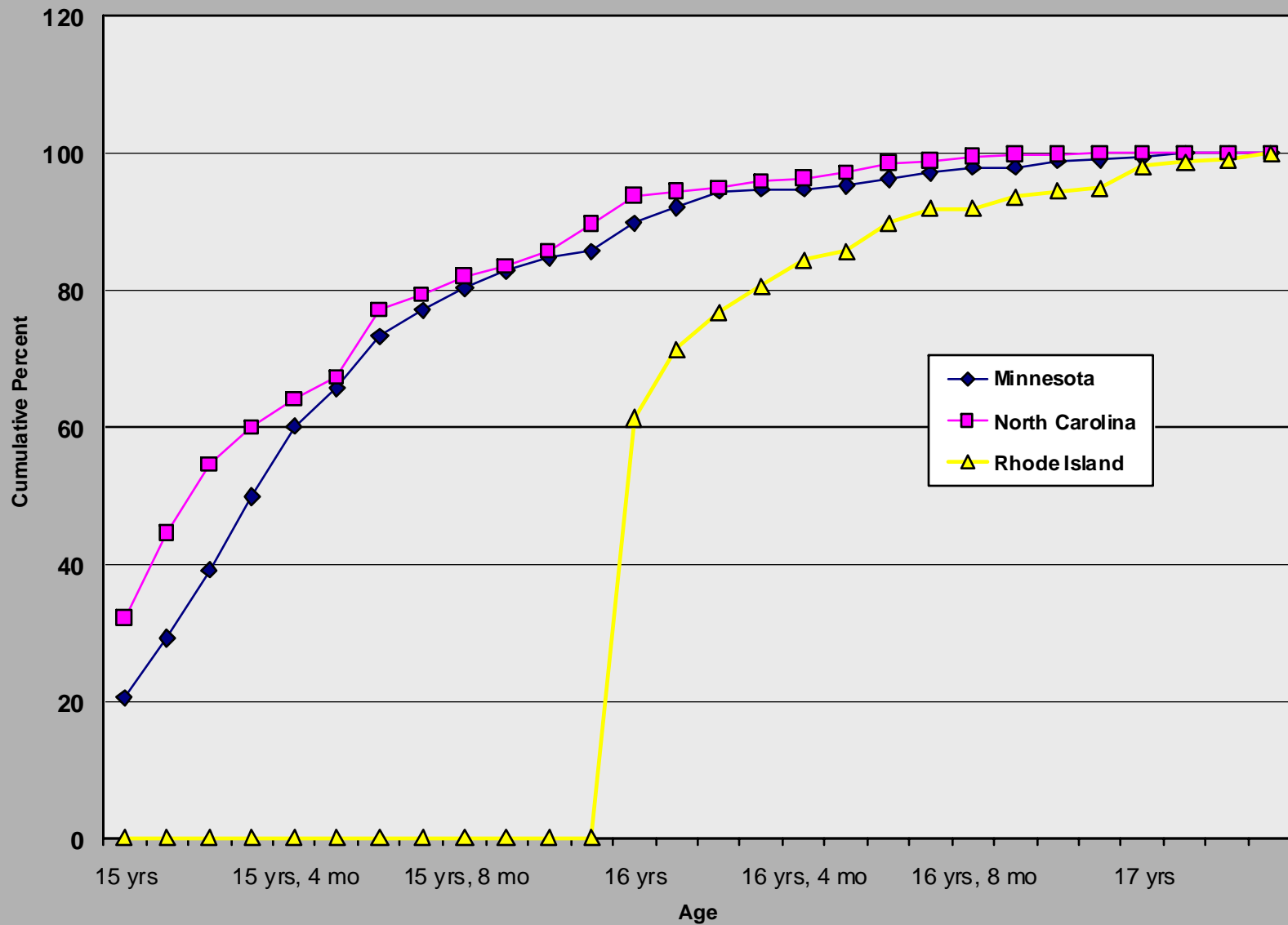
	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
Learner's permit			
minimum age	15	15	16
driver education	yes	yes	yes
holding period	6 months	1 year	6 months
minimum practice	30 hours (10 night)	no	50 hours (10 night)

Driver's license			
minimum age	16	16	16, 6 months
nighttime restriction	none	yes	yes
passenger restriction	none	Yes	yes

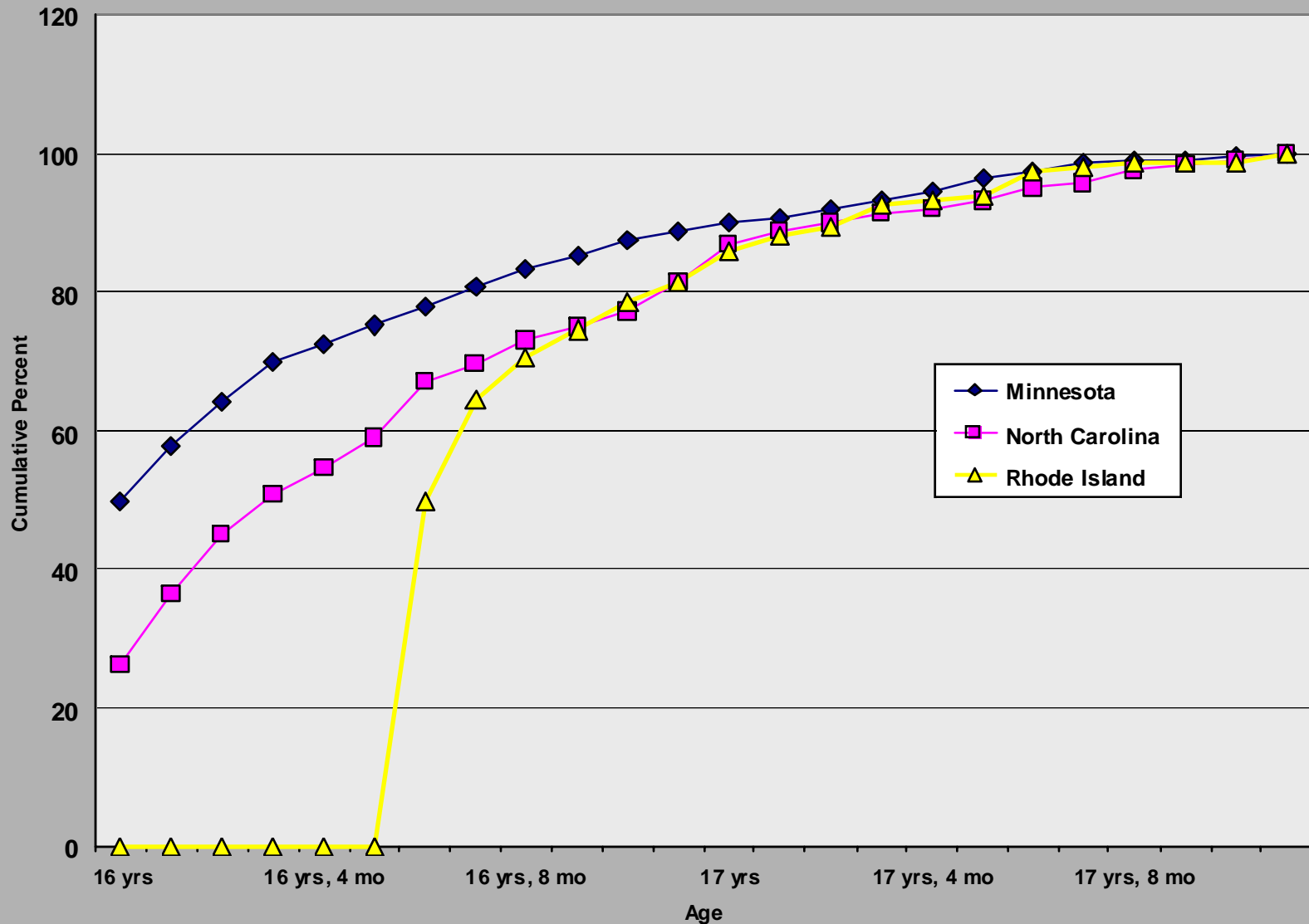


Timing of learner's permit and driver's license

Age at which teenagers obtained a learner's permit



Age at which teenagers took driving test to obtain driver's license



Parental reasons for timing of learner's permit and road tests

- ◆ When teenagers got their learner's permit or took the driving test soon after eligible, the main reason was the teenager wanted it as soon as possible
- ◆ When teenagers delayed getting their permit, the main reasons were driver education-related, teenager's immaturity, or time constraints
- ◆ When teens delayed getting their license, the main reasons were the teenager needing more practice driving, or – in Minnesota – needing to reach the minimum age of licensure

Parental views on what the minimum age of licensure should be (percent)

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
< age 16	1	<1	0
age 16	48	43	39
age 17	15	27	21
age 18 or older	18	23	27
depends on teen	18	8	14

state differences significant, $p < 0.0001$



Monitoring teenager's driving

What parents most want to know about teenagers' driving when not in vehicle (percent)

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
speeding	51	66	53
distractions	52	47	34
cell phone use	40	43	38
number of passengers	46	32	38
identity of passengers	27	22	53
destination	23	10	62
seat belt use	24	17	43
aggressive/dangerous driving	31	10	25
alcohol/drug use	18	7	25

In-vehicle mentoring devices for teenagers

- ◆ Computer chip
- ◆ GPS tracking on cell phone
- ◆ Video camera



Parental awareness of in-vehicle devices to help supervise teenage drivers (percent)

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
Heard of devices*			
yes	59	54	37
no	41	46	63
If yes, type heard of			
computer chip	39	57	32
GPS tracking on cellphone	31	25	50
video camera	32	20	39

*state differences significant, $p < 0.0001$

Willingness to use in-vehicle monitoring devices (percent)

	video camera	computer chip	cellphone GPS
Would consider using*	26-39	40-60	37-62
If no, why not?			
trust teen	49-74	61-77	53-72
invasion of privacy	13-65	3-11	9-48
won't make teen better driver	3-7	18-25	1-32
expense	13-22	2-4	12-20

*state differences significant, $p < 0.01$



Choice of teenager's vehicle



IIHS

TOP SAFETY PICK AWARD.

These models afford the best protection in front, side, and rear crashes, based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) tests. Another requirement, new for 2007, is that a **TOP SAFETY PICK** must be equipped with electronic stability control, standard or optional. This criterion reflects IIHS research indicating that electronic stability control reduces serious crashes by helping drivers maintain control when their vehicles might otherwise spin out.



2007 WINNERS

LARGE CAR

Audi A6 manufactured 12/2006 and later

MIDSIZE CARS

Audi A4
Saab 9-3

Subaru Legacy with optional electronic stability control

SMALL CARS

no winners

MINIVANS

Hyundai Entourage
Kia Sedona

MIDSIZE SUVS

Acura RDX
Honda Pilot
Mercedes M class
Volvo XC90
Subaru B9 Tribeca

SMALL SUVS

Honda CR-V

Subaru Forester with optional electronic stability control

What vehicle will teenager drive most?

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
percent of parents who said teen would be primary driver of a vehicle*	45	47	36
percent who purchased vehicle for teen	25	23	21
percent who purchased new vehicle	<1	2	2

*state differences significant, $p = 0.01$

Percent distribution of teenagers' vehicles

By type and size

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
midsize/large car	42	33	43
minivan	12	11	10
mini/small car	25	22	27
SUV	17	28	16
pickup	4	3	2
sports car	<1	2	2

state differences significant, $p = 0.01$

Percent distribution of teenagers' vehicles

By model year

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
1996 and older	36	36	24
1997-2001	48	41	40
2002 and newer	16	23	35

state differences significant, $p < 0.0001$

Percent distribution of most important factor in selecting vehicle for teenager

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
safety of vehicle	22	38	20
already owned vehicle	22	13	43
reliability of vehicle	7	16	7
low cost to buy, maintain, insure	13	6	8
Size of vehicle	9	7	2
good gas mileage	8	5	4

state differences significant, $p < 0.0001$

Percent of parents who said various safety features were necessary in teenagers' vehicle

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
driver airbag	78	83	83
passenger airbag	52	67	58
antilock brakes	42	22	62
seat belts	20	13	26
side airbags	8	12	15
bumper strength	4	1	1
electronic stability control	< 1	1	3
didn't consider safety	12	7	11

Parental views on vehicles safe for a teenage driver

	Minnesota	North Carolina	Rhode Island
Percent who said midsize or large vehicle safer than small vehicle*	92	84	75
Percent who said SUV safe for teenager to drive	30	36	33
Percent who said pickup safe for teenager to drive*	50	48	28

*state differences significant, $p < 0.0001$

Summary

- ◆ State's licensing laws had a strong influence on the timing of obtaining the learner's permit or taking the road test
- ◆ Up to half of parents in each state favored a licensing age of 17 or older, but a majority of teen obtained licenses well before 17
- ◆ Only 37-59 percent of parents said they'd heard of in-vehicle monitoring devices
- ◆ Parents were least interested in using video cameras
- ◆ Parents not interested in the devices mostly said they trusted their children
- ◆ A majority of parents understood some of the important criteria for choosing a safe vehicle for their teenagers, but many beginners are driving vehicles that provide inferior protection in crashes

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